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Senate promotes job opportunities; sends Red-Tape Reduction Package to House

LANSING – The Senate today passed a comprehensive package of bills to implement a processing deadline on almost every permit or license issued to businesses in the state, said Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores.

Van Woerkom is the sponsor of Senate Bill 1211, a bill to amend the processing deadline for permits issued to livestock dealers.

“Slashing the time that businesses spend waiting for permits and licenses will translate into more job opportunities for Michigan workers,” Van Woerkom said. “The processing deadlines will help make Michigan a more inviting place to do business.”

The Red-Tape Reduction Package is part the Republican JOBS Action Plan for revitalizing the state’s economy. The plan specifically targets ways to attract new businesses, save existing jobs and promote a healthier business climate in the state.

The framework established by the new bills would:

- Implement a fixed processing deadline for issuance of a permit or license;
- Require the state to notify applicants within 30 days if an application is incomplete and requires additional information;
- Refund the current application fee, and provide a 15-percent discount on the subsequent period’s application fee, if a deadline is not met; and
- Require departments to provide reports to legislative committees to ensure the new laws are making permit and license processes more efficient and timely for businesses.

The new laws would affect licenses for new businesses as well as operational permits for current job providers. The change is similar to provisions in the recently signed groundwater and surface-water discharge permit laws.

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Editor’s note: Audio comments for Sen. Van Woerkom on the passage of the Red-Tape Reduction Package are available on the Michigan Senate Republican Majority Multi-Media Link, at: www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/.